

Indigenous

Sh: Labie

Tg: Niibi

Ecology: This tree is usually found along the rocky banks of streams or rivers in evergreen montane forests in Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia to Zaire and mountains around Lake Malawi. In Eritrea, it is confined to areas such as the Mirgats-feres valley near Weki, along riverbanks of Quahaito, around Mt. Soira and near a tree nursery at Gheremi, 2,100-2,500 m.

Uses: **Firewood**, timber (local carpentry), **medicine** (leaves).

Description: A deciduous shrub usually 3-10 m, but can be a tree to 20 m with a diameter up to 1 m, the trunk often branched from the base. **BARK:** Grey and smooth when young, later rough and dark. Young twigs glandular and hairy. **LEAVES:** Oval and stalked, 4-14 cm, **dotted with golden glands on both surfaces**, more below, giving a **spicy aromatic smell when crushed**, tip blunt, base somewhat rounded, 8-20 pairs of fine side veins, the edge wavy with a few well-spaced teeth. **FLOWERS:** Male and female separate. Male **flowers yellow on yellow stalks to 3.5 cm, fragrant and dotted with oil glands**. Female anthers shorter. **FRUIT:** On a **spike to 4 cm, each fruit round** and very small, **purple with white waxy dots all over**.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings, cuttings.

Seed: No. of seed per kg: $\pm 300,000$. Germination is usually poor.

treatment: Soak the seeds in cold water for 24 hours.

storage: Can be stored in air-tight containers if kept cold.

Management: Plant closely to encourage straight growth; pruning, coppicing.

Remarks: The dried powdered leaves are mixed with water and used as a local medicine against skin diseases. The wood is soft and light.

Myrica salicifolia

Myricaceae

